

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 04011 152312Z

70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 ERDA-05 FPC-01

PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03 FEA-01 /103 W

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P R 152229Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5161

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMA 4011

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BDIS,ENRG,EINV,PFOR,PE

SUBJ: GULF EXPROPRIATION - GOP OFFICIALS AND PRESS

COMMENT ON TAKEOVER

REFS: LIMA 3974, LIMA 3973, STATE 112451 (NOTAL)

1. LIMA PRESS GAVE HEAVY PLAY TO GULF EXPROPRIATION IN MORNING PAPERS MAY 15, QUOTING INTERIOR MINISTER, GENERAL RICHTER PRADA, TO EFFECT THAT EXPROPRIATION WAS JUSTIFIED TO MAINTAIN "UNSTAINED MORAL CHARACTER" OF PERUVIAN REVOLUTION. EXTREME LEFTIST "EXPRESO" AND GOVERNMENT-OWNED "LA CRONICA" RAN MAN-IN-THE-STREE FEATURES, QUOTING SEVERAL PERUVIAN CITIZENS WHO VARIOUSLY CONDEMNED GULF FOR "SWINDLING PERU," "CONFESSING BRIBERY SHAMELESSLY," AND ONE CITIZEN WHO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT "GULF HAD BEEN TOSSED OUT," AND ANOTHER WHO NOTED THAT "THE NORTH AMERICANS HAVE ALREADY MUCKED AROUND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 LIMA 04011 152312Z

A LOT HERE; LET THEM DO IT AT HOME".

2. OTHER STORIES, ALSO CARRIED IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE, POINTED OUT THAT ALL PERUVIAN WORKERS HAVE BEEN GUARANTEED JOB STABILITY BY PETROPERU AND THAT ALL SERVICE STATIONS ARE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. OFFICIAL GOP GAZETTE ALSO PUBLISHED MINISTERIAL RESOLUTION, SIGNED BY MINES AND ENERGY MINISTER GENERAL FERNANDEZ MALDONADO, AUTHORIZING HIS MINISTRY TO PROCEED WITH THE EXPROPRIATION PROCESS.

3. SEVERAL PAPERS CARRIED AFP STORY, DATELINED WASHINGTON MAY 14, QUOTING FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR TO EFFECT THAT IT IS OFFICIAL PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT INTENTION TO PAY GULF COMPENSATION, BOTH FOR ITS EXPROPRIATED PROPERTY AND PAYMENTS DUE UNDER GOP'S CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS TO GULF. (COMMENT: AFP STORY MAKES NO REFERENCE TO DE LA FLOR'S ASSERTION, REPORTED IN STATE 112451, THAT EXPROPRIATION RESULTED FROM "SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS" BETWEEN BOTH PARTIES.)

4. ONLY ONE PAPER, "LA CRONICA," QUERIED EMBASSY ABOUT OUR POSITION AND FAITHFULLY REPRODUCED WORD-FOR-WORD OUR PRESS GUIDANCE MENTIONED IN LIMA 3974 UNDER HEADING "U.S. RECOGNIZES RIGHT OF EXPROPRIATION."

5. COMMENT: PRESS COVERAGE SHOWS EVERY SIGN OF GOP ORCHESTRATION, TYPICAL IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. TONE IS TO PLAY UP MORALITY AND PURITY OF PERUVIAN REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS AND TO CONDEMN GULF IN PARTICULAR AND MNC'S IN GENERAL FOR THEIR NOTORIOUS CONDUCT. ASIDE FROM PRESS NOTICE IN "LA CRONICA" QUOTING EMBASSY, THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF USG IN THIS AFFAIR.
DEAN

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